

Make a copy of the sample letter, fill in properly the details between the {..}, adapt the content to your context, and send it as a letter or an email to your bishop and his team, or to the leadership of the institutions you want to encourage.

[PORTUGUESE](#)

[Diocese](#)

[Congregation](#)

[Other institution](#)

PORTUGUESE

Diocese

Dear Bishop {Name of Bishop},

I am a parishioner of {name of your parish}. I would like to bring your attention to the investment policy of our diocese and its alignment with Catholic social teachings.

I have carefully read the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. His Holiness the Pope makes a very clear call to Catholics worldwide to align their investment policy with the moral imperative to care for Creation. Caring for Creation means that the “use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay” (*Laudato Si'* 165). Consequently, this entails “spreading the use of ethical, responsible and integral criteria for investments, avoiding the support to harmful companies ... to environmental ecology (for example fossil fuels)”.¹

That is why I believe our diocese should divest from fossil fuels. Divesting means getting rid of any form of financial assets related to companies that extract fossil fuels, or that participate in developing new projects. On the other hand, divesting also means investing in meaningful, sustainable, and less risky projects. Divestment should be a public decision: by openly saying that we divest from fossil fuels, we bring our voice to the many prophetic voices of the hundreds of dioceses and Catholic institutions that have already committed to do so. Publicly divesting would be our contribution in action to a broader movement for a fair and rapid transition.

Another good reason to divest is that owning fossil fuel industry assets is risky. Their valuation is based on the ability of companies to extract existing reserves and making new projects. Hopefully, this polluting extraction will not happen because society is collectively switching to a

¹ As stated in “Journey Toward our Common Home, Five years after *Laudato Si'*”, Interdicasterial Working Group Of The Holy See On Integral Ecology p. 178,179.

fossil-free future. So the value and returns of these assets will be low, if not negative. More and more investment managers recognize the increasing risks of fossil fuel investment, like New York State's pension fund, one of the world's largest, which has already divested. On the other hand, we know that some activities need investments and will offer steady returns: renewable energies, real estate insulation, as part of a diversified portfolio.

I think our diocese should take this decision urgently: the effects of climate change are already extreme. I especially think of last summer's heat waves, but climate change affects all people and creatures living on this planet, with a greater impact on the poor and vulnerable.

We could start this journey with the help of a fellow diocese or Catholic institution already committed. The Laudato Si' Movement also provides excellent resources and advice to Catholics on why and how to divest.

It may be that our diocese does not hold any assets related to the fossil fuel industry. Then, for us, divestment would mean pledging to avoid any investment in the future - an act with great significance also.

We are invited to sign a commitment to divest within five years on Laudato Si' Movement's [website](#). Doing so will give us the opportunity to participate in the next global divestment announcement of faith-based institutions. It will take place on the first months of 2023.

Thank you for considering this request. I am available to support your decision in any way, and I remain at your service to follow up with a meeting in person.

Yours faithfully,

{First Name, Surname}

Congregation

Dear {Sister-Brother-Father-Mr/Mrs} {Name},

I would like to bring your attention to the investment policy of our diocese and its alignment with Catholic social teachings.

I have carefully read the encyclical Laudato Si'. His Holiness the Pope makes a very clear call to Catholics worldwide to align their investment policy with the moral imperative to care for Creation. Caring for Creation means that the "use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay" (Laudato Si' 165). Consequently, this entails "spreading the use of ethical, responsible and

integral criteria for investments, avoiding the support to harmful companies ... to environmental ecology (for example fossil fuels)".²

That is why I believe {Name of institution} should divest from fossil fuels. Divesting means getting rid of any form of financial assets related to companies that extract fossil fuels, or that participate in developing new projects. On the other hand, divesting also means investing in meaningful, sustainable, and less risky projects. Divestment should be a public decision: by openly saying that we divest from fossil fuels, we bring our voice to the many prophetic voices of the hundreds of Catholic institutions that have already committed to do so. Publicly divesting would be our contribution in action to a broader movement for a fair and rapid transition.

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Yours faithfully,

{First Name, Surname}

² As stated in "Journey Toward our Common Home, Five years after Laudato Si", Interdicasterial Working Group Of The Holy See On Integral Ecology p. 178,179.

Other institution

Dear president {Name},

I am a longstanding member of {Name of institution}, and I would like to bring your attention to the alignment with Catholic social teachings of the investment policy of our institution.

I have carefully read the encyclical *Laudato Si'*. His Holiness the Pope makes a very clear call to Catholics worldwide to align their investment policy with the moral imperative to care for Creation. Caring for Creation means that the “use of highly polluting fossil fuels—especially coal, but also oil and, to a lesser degree, gas—needs to be progressively replaced without delay” (*Laudato Si'* 165). Consequently, this entails “spreading the use of ethical, responsible and integral criteria for investments, avoiding the support to harmful companies ... to environmental ecology (for example fossil fuels)”.³

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Thank you for considering this request. I am available to support your decision in any way, and I remain at your service to follow up with a meeting in person.

Yours faithfully,

{First Name, Surname}